

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for generating a compact representation of a first object, comprising:
 - (a) identifying a set of features corresponding to the first object;
 - (b) generating for each feature a hashing vector having n coordinates;
 - (c) summing the hashing vectors to obtain a summed vector; and
 - (d) creating an $n \bullet x$ -bit representation of the summed vector by calculating an x -bit value for each coordinate of the summed vector, the $n \bullet x$ -bit representation of the summed vector defining the compact representation of the first object.
2. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the set of features is a vector.
3. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein generating for each feature a hashing vector comprises:
 - determining a weight associated with each feature; and
 - multiplying each hashing vector by the weight determined for the corresponding feature.

4. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the object is a document.

5. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein each feature is a word within the document.

6. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the object is a summary of another object.

7. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein x is equal to 1.

8. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein n is equal to 64.

9. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating acts (a) – (d) for a second object to create a second $n \bullet x$ -bit representation; and

comparing the first and second $n \bullet x$ -bit representations to determine whether the first and second objects are similar.

10. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 9, further comprising discarding either one of the first or second objects.

11. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
repeating acts (a) – (d) for m objects to create m $n \bullet x$ -bit representations;
and
grouping the m objects based on their corresponding $n \bullet x$ -bit representations.

12. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 11, further comprising compressing the objects by group.

13. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein act (b) comprises generating for each feature a hashing vector having n coordinates, such that the hashing vectors are similar for similar features.

14. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for generating a compact representation of an object, comprising:
generating a vector corresponding to the object, each coordinate of the vector being associated with a corresponding weight;
multiplying the weight associated with each coordinate in the vector by a corresponding hashing vector to generate a product vector;
summing the product vectors to obtain a summed product vector; and

generating a compact representation of the object using the summed product vectors.

15. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein the weights are real numbers.

16. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the weights include values between zero and one.

17. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein the object is a web document.

18. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, wherein the coordinates in the vector correspond to words in the web document.

19. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising:

assigning the weights for each coordinate of the vector as the number of occurrences of the word within the web document divided by the number of web documents contained in a collection of web documents that contain the word.

20. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein values in the hashing vectors are generated using a pseudo

random number generator seeded based on the coordinate corresponding to the hashing vector.

21. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein each bit is generated based on the sign of the value of the coordinate.

Claims 22- 26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A system for generating a compact representation of an object, comprising:

means for generating a vector corresponding to the object, each coordinate of the vector being associated with a corresponding weight;

means for multiplying the weight associated with each coordinate in the vector by a corresponding hashing vector to generate a product vector; and

means for summing the product vectors to obtain a summed product vector; and

means for generating the compact representation based on the summed product vector.

28. (original) A computer-readable medium storing instructions for causing at least one processor to perform a method that generates a compact representation of an object, the method comprising:

generating a vector corresponding to the object, each coordinate of the vector being associated with a corresponding weight;

 multiplying the weight associated with each coordinate in the vector by a corresponding hashing vector to generate a product vector;

 summing the product vectors; and

 generating the compact representation of the object using the summed product vector.

29. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method for generating a compact representation of an object, comprising:

 generating an object vector corresponding to the object;

 generating a hashing vector corresponding to each coordinate of the object vector;

 summing the hashing vectors to obtain a summed vector;

 calculating at least one bit corresponding to each coordinate of the summed product vector; and

 generating a compact representation of the object by concatenating the calculated bits.

30. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

 comparing the created compact representation of the first object to a second compact representation obtained for a second object; and

 obtaining a value defining similarity between the first and second objects based on the comparison.

31. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
comparing the generated compact representation of the object to a
second compact representation obtained for a second object; and
obtaining a value defining similarity between the object and the second
object based on the comparison.

32. (new) The system of claim 27, further comprising:
means for comparing the generated compact representation of the object
to a second compact representation obtained for a second object; and
means for obtaining a value defining similarity between the object and the
second object based on a result of the means for comparing.

33. (new) The computer-implemented method of claim 29, further
comprising:
comparing the generated compact representation of the object to a
second compact representation obtained for a second object; and
obtaining a value defining similarity between the object and the second
object based on a result of the comparing.